

# PRODUCT CLOSE-UP

## Corder 5000 Series Dr



Corder is a relatively new company on the scene, even though they've been designing and reworking drums since 1965. They purchased the old Fibes factory and facilities a few years ago, and since then have been turning out six-ply maple-shell drums.

Components of the Corder 5000 kit are: 14 x 22 bass drum, 8 x 12 and 9 x 13 tom-toms, 16 x 16 floor tom, and 8 x 14 snare drum.

### Bass Drum

The lugs used by Corder on all their drums are the old diamond-shaped Fibes design. This bass drum has 20 lugs with T-handle tuners. The hoops are wooden, and painted black with a chrome inlay strip. Fibes spurs are used on the drum. These spurs consist of spring-loaded tubes with a locking pin. An Allen screw holds an inner extendable leg, which has a spiked tip covered by a rubber foot. The spur tube is inserted into the bracket and then turned to lock the spur into the housing the spur does not pass through the drum. To remove the spur for packing, the same push/pull principle applies. I would have liked a T-screw, or at least a square-headed screw to release the extendable leg, since an Allen wrench is just another thing to misplace. Also, the spurs must be removed from the drum when packing up—a bit of an inconvenience. The spurs did hold the bass drum well, nevertheless.

A clear CS head is fitted onto the batter side; a clear *Ambassador* is on the front. No felt strip is included, since Corder mounts a *Deadringer-type* foam ring under the batter head to cut down on over-

tones. The foam ring gave the drum a good punch, but for some reason, this bass drum was not as loud as others I've tried.

### Mounting System

In the beginning, Corder used Fibes' *Uni-Ball* mount system, but they have since chosen a new, more current design. Mounted on the bass drum is a diamond-shaped base plate which accepts a fat down tube. A T-screw presses a strip of spring steel inside the base plate to secure the tube's height. There is also a memory ring on the down tube, which fits into a slot on the base plate. Atop the tube are two encased balls with knurled L-arms. The casings are slotted on the sides where the L-arms protrude, allowing for lateral adjustment. The arms can also angle forward or backward. Holder setting is locked with a T-screw atop each casing. (Corder's tom-tom holder reminds me very much of Tama's recent system in its appearance and workings.)

The brackets on the toms are columnar and use a T-screw/eye bolt to secure the L-arm. They interface with small memory rings on the arms to minimize slippage and twisting. Corder's holder can stand up easily to most other popular mounts. I did find a problem, however, with the down tube turning a little, even though all screws and locks were tightened down. The holder itself is quite sturdy and affords most any desirable angle.

### Tom-Toms

The 8x12 and 9x13 tom-toms have 12 lugs each; the 16x16 floor tom has 16. They all have triple-flanged hoops, and are

fitted with clear CS batters and clear *Ambassador* bottoms. Instead of internal dampers, the toms have *Deadringer-type* rings mounted under their batter heads. The floor tom has three legs, each knurled on the top half and bent in two places at the bottom. The legs locate into brackets which resemble the drum lugs. Each bracket has a square-head screw to secure the leg, which, again, seems a bit inconvenient to me. A T-screw would be much more efficient.

With the combination of foam rings and CS heads, the toms had a thick, funky sound mixed with some pleasing resonance.

### Snare Drum

A 20-lug 8x14 snare drum is included with this kit. It has a maple shell and a chrome covering, plus an internal knob-operated muffler. The strainer used is the old Fibes *SFT-690*, which I'm happy to see back in circulation. It has a contoured lever-release handle, throwing off from the center. There are no internal springs or cams, making the throw-off action virtually silent. The bottom of the throw-off has a large fine-tuning tension knob. The 18-strand snare unit extends past the bottom hoop and is under constant tension, even when released. The snares are attached directly on both ends of the drum by small screws. A butt guard plate is attached onto two adjacent drum rods.

A *Fiberskyn 2* is fitted on the batter side. The drum is capable of a wide dynamic and pitch range. It has a nice, crisp sound, yet due to its size, can give a good, deep sound at lower tunings. One point that deserves mention is that this snare drum retails at only \$225.00!

### Hardware

Most of Corder's hardware is imported, with the exception of their bass drum pedal, which is the old Fibes model. The *CFP-100* has a black frame, and a one-piece, cast footboard. It has chain-pull linkage and a single expansion spring stretched downward. The pedal clamps to the hoop using the regular screw/clamp plate method. The footboard connecting rods can locate into one of two sets of holes, allowing different footboard-to-base distances. Spring tension is adjustable near the base of the frame. Footboard height and beater throw are also adjustable, via Allen screws. The felt beater is also

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held by an Allen screw. Again, I'd like to see a T-screw, since two separately sized Allen wrenches are needed to complete all pedal adjustments (except spring tension). The pedal has a sleek look and has not changed appearance much since its Fibes days. The action is a bit sluggish, and the pedal has a somewhat tight response, but a different spring might cure this.

Corder only includes one cymbal stand with this kit. It has a double-braced tripod base, and two adjustable-height tiers. The height joints are satin-finished, and have molded nylon bushings set in. The tiller mechanism uses a concealed ratchet. The stand is very sturdy, and gives more than enough height adjustment.

The snare stand also has a double-braced tripod, a concealed ratchet tiller, and a large molded bushing at its height joint. It uses the common basket design with a threaded carriage nut. The stand goes low enough to comfortably seat the 8" drum and, like the cymbal stand, is quite sturdy.

The hi-hat stand has a double-braced tripod, and a split footboard with an adjustable toe stop. The footboard is stamped with the North Drums logo, which leads me to speculate on whether *all the* Corder hardware might actually be old North stock. The hi-hat's tension relies on an external compression spring, which is adjusted via a cap ring atop the spring housing lube. This is easily adjustable from the playing position. There is a knurled-knob spur at the base, plus a memory lock and nylon bushing at the height joint. A metal strip is used for linkage, along with double pull-rods. This stand is extremely sturdy, and has a smooth, feather-like action with no noise.

The kit tested was seen in jet black covering. Corder offers a total of ten coverings and three lacquer finishes. They also have many accessories available, including the Fibes *Cym-Set* and *Sta-way* (reviewed: *MD* Jan. '83). Corder also makes power-sized drums, as well as selling bare shells in all sizes. For any Fibes owners out there, the company stocks a big selection of parts.

The Corder 5000 kit retails at \$1,255; the same kit in lacquer finish is \$1,425. Some people have criticized these as being lower-line drums, but I disagree. Corder puts out well-made drums matched with quality hardware at reasonable prices.



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